

**REMARKS**

Claims 19-23 are pending. Claims 25 and 26 have been cancelled.

**Prior Art Rejections:**

In responding to the Examiner's prior art rejections, Applicant here only justifies the patentability of independent claim 19. As the Examiner will appreciate, should the independent claim be patentable over the prior art, narrower dependent claims would also necessarily be patentable. Accordingly, Applicant does not separately discuss the patentability of the dependent claims, although it reserves the right to do so at a later time if necessary.

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 19-23 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jonsson (U.S. Patent 6,272,214). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 19 was amended to include the limitation:

in response to the subscriber delivering the unique URL through the Internet to the participant and the participant clicking on the delivered URL, having the conference system obtain a telephone number of the participant from the participant

Claim 25, which is now cancelled, recited requesting identification information, wherein the identification information comprises a telephone number. Claim 25 was rejected over Jonsson, with reference to column 3, lines 16-28 and column 5, lines 7-38 of Jonsson.

Jonsson, column 3, lines 16-28 are reproduced here:

The intended participants can be invited to the meeting by including the unique identifier along with a notification message, such as, for example, in a facsimile message, e-mail message, page message, voice mail message, bulletin board announcement (e.g., at a World Wide Web site), etc. If the conference service node is coupled to a cellular communications network, such as a Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) network, the unique identifier can be *generated by the conference service node and transmitted* by the network in a Short Message Service (SMS) text message to one or more GSM subscribers (who are also intended participants). [emphasis added].

This cited text does not teach having the conference system obtain a telephone number of the participant from the participant. The cited text only teaches that a unique identifier is provided *to the participant, not obtained from the participant*. The text further more teaches that the unique identifier is *generated by the conference service node, not obtained from the participant*.

Column 5, lines 7-38 of Jonsson is reproduced here:

FIG. 3 is a flow diagram of an exemplary method that can be used to implement the preferred embodiment of the invention. At step 202, a telemeting (e.g., telephone conference) is arranged. Using an appropriate communications terminal, a telemeting administrator (arranger) creates a conference session during a dialog with the conference service node (101). During that dialog, at step 204, the administrator indicates to the service node (101) that the session is scheduled to occur at a specific date and time. At step 206, *the service node (101) allocates one or more temporary telephone numbers (or, for example, URLs for a website location) to the telemeting administrator. The temporary telephone numbers are valid for, and associated directly with, the upcoming telemeting session.* At step 208, *the administrator distributes (e.g., by e-mail, page, broadcast, etc.) the temporary telephone numbers (URLS, etc.) in an invitation message to intended session participants.* At step 210, just prior to or during the session, any of the invited *participants can call the temporary telephone number* (or click on a URL) in order to make a request to join the conference. At step 212, if an invited participant calls the temporary telephone number (or, for example, clicks on the invitation URL), the conference service node distributes a personal reference telephone number (or URL) to that participant. That personal number is associated with a particular conference bridge 110 or 120 (FIG. 2). Consequently, that participant can access and join the conference via that conference bridge. For the preferred embodiment, each conference bridge (110, 120) can be a communications switch or node in a PSTN or Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN), or a host computer providing a data network voice service. [emphasis added].

This cited text does not teach having the conference system obtain a telephone number of the participant from the participant. Rather, the cited text indicates that the service node allocates one or more temporary telephone numbers for the conference and distributes the

temporary telephone numbers with an invitation to the participant. This teaches away from obtaining a phone number for a participant from the participant.

Claim 19 was also amended to include the limitation:

having the conferencing system automatically dial the telephone number and connect the participant to the conferencing system.

Jonsson does not teach this limitation. The Office Action stated that Jonsson teaches "having the conferencing system automatically connect the participant to the conferencing system in response to the provided identification information," citing Jonsson column 1, lines 61-67; column 2 lines 1-12; column 4, lines 1-26; column 5, lines 39-52; and column 6, lines 9-27.

Column 1, lines 61-67 and column 2, lines 1-12 are reproduced here:

Another teleconferencing system is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,369,694, which is entitled "Unattended Meet-Me-Conference Controlled By A Telephone Terminal." Essentially, this patent discloses a method for automatically connecting teleconference *participants who can register for the conference by calling a predetermined telephone number*. A telephone terminal (capable of executing application software programs) provides certain teleconferencing management and control functions, and uses control signals to communicate with the telecommunications network and establish connections for all conference participants. The disclosed system employs a modified Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) protocol to control the transfer of signalling and speech data. However, a problem with such a system is that special "intelligent" terminal equipment is required, which can limit the ultimate use of the service provided. Also, the use of an ISDN protocol can be technically and/or financially prohibitive for certain network operators. [emphasis added].

This cited text does not teach having the conference system dial the telephone number provided by the participant and automatically connecting the participant to the conferencing system. Rather, the cited text teaches connecting participant who register for the conference, wherein the *participants call a predetermined number to register*.

Column 4, lines 1-26 are reproduced here:

*A plurality of telephone numbers associated with the PSTN 103 are reserved for use with certain services* (including telemeetings) that can be implemented in the conference service node 101. In a dialog with the service node (e.g., via a communications terminal), a telemeeting administrator (e.g., conference originator or

coordinator) addresses the service node and executes initialization commands to initiate the conference and prepare a future (or subsequent or upcoming) session which is valid for a predetermined period of time. Consequently, *the service node 101 allocates (for that predetermined period of time) at least one of the plurality of phone numbers for the upcoming meeting session. The conference service node 101 provides a list of the temporary telephone numbers* (unique identifiers) allocated to the session to the telemeeting administrator (e.g., via the terminal), who distributes one or more of the temporary telephone numbers or other temporary references (e.g., a URL) in an "invitation" message to intended participants. The "invitation message" can be broadcast (open-ended) or conveyed directly to individual invitees. After receiving the "invitation" message, *the intended participants can call at any time just before or after the announced time, the one or more telephone numbers which are allocated to the upcoming session.* Each such call is queued and processed by the application software (in accordance with the session-defined data), which is executed by a processor (not explicitly shown) in the service node 101. [emphasis added].

This cited text does not teach having the conference system dial the telephone number provided by the participant and automatically connecting the participant to the conferencing system. Rather, the cited text teaches that a plurality of telephone numbers is reserved and participants join the conference by dialing the reserved telephone numbers. The participants are sent an invitation and they can join by dialing the numbers with which they are provided.

Column 5, lines 39-52 of Jonsson are reproduced here:

At step 214, *if an invitee calls the personal telephone number during the session*, then the conference service node (101) generates an alert message, which notifies the session administrator (e.g., via a terminal monitor) that the invitee is waiting to join the session. If, however, the caller is not an invitee, at step 215, that call can be disregarded (if the telemeeting administrator so desires). At step 216, the telemeeting administrator can introduce the waiting invitee(s) to the conference at an appropriate time. At step 218, the telemeeting administrator can then connect (e.g., by pushing on a button or clicking on a hyperlink) the new participant(s) to the conference. In response, the service node (101) directs the switch (e.g., 102 for one group of participants) to connect the calling participant(s) into the conference. [emphasis added].

This cited text does not teach having the conference system dial the telephone number provided by the participant and automatically connecting the participant to the conferencing system. Rather, the cited text teaches that *the invitee calls* the personal telephone number to join the session.

Column 6, lines 9-27 of Jonsson are reproduced here:

Alternatively, instead of receiving a temporary telephone number (URL, etc.) in an "invitation" message, a party can receive a personal number in the "invitation" message. *Consequently, the party can call that personal number and be connected automatically by the service node and switch to the session.* This method and the above-described method of receiving and calling a personal number (URL, etc.) after using the temporary number in the "invitation" message, can be automated by logic executed in a user's (e.g., an invitee's) mobile terminal. Additionally, the user of the mobile terminal can respond to the "invitation" message with a reference number for a fixed terminal which will ultimately be used for the communication with the conference. Subsequently, the conference manager can use the submitted reference number to set up a connection between the fixed terminal and the conference. A method for using a mobile terminal for obtaining such services (conferencing, etc.) with a fixed terminal by remote control is described in commonly-assigned U.S. patent application Ser. No. 08/705,851. [emphasis added].

This cited text does not teach having the conference system dial the telephone number provided by the participant and automatically connecting the participant to the conferencing system. Rather, the cited text teaches that the invitee calls the personal number that they receive via the URL.

In sum, all of the text cited in Jonsson teaches that the invitee must call to join a conference and teaches away from obtaining the participant's phone number via a URL and having the conferencing system dial the participant's phone number and automatically connect the participant to the conference. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(c) be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

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